DECLASSIFIED

SUNDAY
AUGUST 29, 1955

I spent the day at Versailles in constant touch with members of our mission who reported on the EDC debate, which is going badly from the viewpoint of proponents of the Treaty.

E. was at the Assembly this morning, Gaston Palewski having kindly provided her with a ticket, but returned to lunch with Manuelita and Walter White and their daughter, Frank Giles of the London Times, Marquis Childs, Sophie Sturgis, and the Joyces. They all went back to the Assembly immediately after lunch.

As I have consistently refrained from any contact with French officials or Parliamentarians on this matter for fear of having the charge again raised of attempted American interference in the free decisions of the French Government and Assembly, I passed a tranquil day.

This afternoon, Pam Tower and the de Salis family came to see us at Versailles. De Salis is a Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army, acting in a liaison capacity for EDC matters. He is a brilliant linguist and a brother of my friend John de Salis, now deceased. John had been very kind to me in Cairo in 1940 and 1941, where he was remarkably useful. Amongst other reasons, this was due to his close friendship with Hassanein Pasha, at that time the King's Chef du Cabinet. Hassanein had been educated at Oxford, was very understanding of British problems, and moderated many disputes which otherwise might have become serious. I still remember vividly a delightful lunch I had with the two of them in a private room of the famous Egyptian Men's Club in Cairo at a time when the Rommel campaign threatened the Egyptian capital.

The bad news came in tonight of the rejection, in effect, of EDC by the National Assembly by 319 ballots against 264 (although the Treaty was not directly voted upon, the vote having been taken on a motion by General Aumeran to terminate further consideration of the Treaty).

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CKC DATE 7-1-81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. R.A.O.( )
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

At first blush, two things seemed obvious: (a) had it not been for the solid Communist bloc vote of 100, or (b) had Mendès thrown the weight of his Government behind the Treaty, in either event it would have passed. Mendès has rendered himself vulnerable to the charge that, having refused to acknowledge or count the Communist votes in connection with his investiture, he has now allowed the deputies who cast their ballots in complete obedience to the Soviet Government's policies to kill the most important measure presented to the French Parliament since 1940.

This evening might well be characterized, as was the famous night when Cortez's warriors battled their way out of Mexico City, as "La Noche Triste".

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY CFC DATE 7-1-81

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DECLASSIFIED